

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 12037 290113Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 /092 W
-----010032 291846Z /46

R 281709Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8621
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12037

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MILI PARM UK
SUBJECT: ONE-DAY STRIKE AGAINST BRITAIN DEFENSE
ESTABLISHMENT CALLED FOR AUG 2

REF: LONDON 11898

SUMMARY: AN "UNOFFICIAL" MEETING OF SHOP STEWARDS HAS
CALLED FOR A ONE-DAY GOVERNMENT-WIDE STRIKE OF BLUE
COLLAR WORKERS NEXT WEDNESDAY. THIS STEP WAS TAKEN IN
CONNECTION WITH THE ONGOING PAY DISPUTE WHICH HAS ALREADY
LED TO WORK STOPPAGES AT SEVERAL BRITISH DEFENSE
FACILITIES AND TO THE UNION "BLACKING" OF THE ROYAL NAVY'
SSBN FLEET. HIGH LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT AND UNION LEADERS WHICH MAY SUCCEED IN FORE-
STALLING THE STRIKE. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD) HAS
NOT YET FULLY ASSESSED THE EFFECT A 24-HOUR STRIKE
WOULD HAVE ON DEFENSE READINESS AND OPERATIONAL CAPA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 12037 290113Z

BILITY, BUT BELIEVES IT TO BE QUITE LIMITED. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 27 SHOP STEWARDS PURPORTEDLY REPRESENTING
CIVIL SERVICE BLUE COLLAR WORKERS CALLED UNANIMOUSLY FOR
A ONE-DAY GOVERNMENT-WIDE WORK STOPPAGE ON WEDNESDAY,
AUG 2. THE MEETING WAS UNOFFICIAL, BUT THE SHOP STEWARDS,
ACCORDING TO MOD SOURCE, SEEMED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF

BLUE COLLAR WORKERS IN THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. THE MEETING MAY HAVE BEEN SPARKED BY THE GOVERNMENT DECISION TO GET AROUND THE UNION "BLACKING" OF THE SSBN REVENGE AND USE NAVAL PERSONNEL, INSTEAD OF THE CIVILIAN SHIP-YARD WORKERS, TO PREPARE HER FOR SEA. THE ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPASSE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOME ELEVEN UNIONS OVER THE GOVERNMENT PAY OFFER FOR 183,000 BLUE COLLAR WORKERS.

2. NEOGITATIONS CONTINUE BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND UNION LEADERS IN AN EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT A SETTLEMENT. THE UNION LEADERSHIP SEEMS TO HAVE LOST TOUCH WITH, AND IN ANY CASE CONTROL OVER, SOME OF THE LOCAL LEADERS WHO, CONTRARY TO UNION INSTRUCTIONS, HAVE INITIATED EARLIER WORK STOPPAGES DIRECTED AT SEVERAL DEFENSE ACTIVITIES, AND HAVE NOW CALLED FOR A ONE-DAY STRIKE. UNLESS A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED, SUCH A STRIKE SEEMS LIKELY, ALTHOUGH IT IS HARD TO DETERMINE HOW WIDELY IT WOULD BE FOLLOWED.

3. THE MOD IS STILL ASSESSING THE IMPACT SUCH A STRIKE WOULD HAVE ON DEFENSE READINESS. PRESUMABLY SUPPLY BASES, ORDINANCE DEPOTS, THE NATIONALIZED ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY, AND NAVAL ESTABLISHMENTS WOULD BE AFFECTED. PLANS TO SWITCH TO MILITARY PERSONNEL TO SUSTAIN KEY OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES EXIST. OF THE ARMED SERVICES, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 12037 290113Z

ONLY THE NAVY SEEMS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON CIVILIAN LABOR FOR CERTAIN OPERATIONAL TASKS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF NAVAL PORTS COULD BE AFFECTED.

5. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH U.S. THIRD AIR FORCE AND CINCUSNAVEUR REGARDING THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF SUCH A STRIKE ON U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE UK. CERTAIN MAINTENANCE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED FOR U.S. FORCES BY CIVILIAN UK GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES COULD BE AFFECTED, BUT U.S. COMMANDS ENVISAGE NO SERIOUS OPERATIONAL CONSEQUENCES, AND NO DEGRADATION OF DEFENSE READINESS.

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, DISPUTES, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON12037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0231
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780710/aaaaaibf.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0a36c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 11898
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1844583
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ONE-DAY STRIKE AGAINST BRITAIN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT CALLED FOR AUG 2
TAGS: MILI, PARM, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a36c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014